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Work and Workers.

IN the *American Journal of Archæology* Dr. E. J. Goodspeed, of the University of Chicago, publishes an exhaustive study of the *Washim Papyrus of Iliad*, ©, 1-68.

ALREADY it has been found necessary to print a second edition of the Moulton and Geden *Concordance to the Greek Testament* (imported by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York).

FROM April 2 to April 9, at the Central Baptist Church, Trenton, N. J., there were given a series of picture talks by Dr. Josiah Strong and Dr. W. H. Tolman, upon subjects connected with the "Life of the People."

THE *Life of Christ*, by Rev. John Watson, D.D., Liverpool, England, will be published the coming autumn. A series of articles upon the "Doctrines of Grace," by the same author, are appearing in current issues of the *Expositor*.

PROFESSOR GEORGE H. GILBERT, of Chicago Theological Seminary, has just issued a *Student's Life of Paul* (Macmillan Co., New York), a companion volume to the *Student's Life of Jesus*, which appeared some three years ago. They are excellent handbooks for the simpler study of New Testament history.

CONNECTED with the First Baptist Church of Pittsfield, Mass., is a Sunday school which has a membership of 644, distributed in fifty classes. The school has eight grades, all using the Bible Study Union lessons. Examinations are held every three months, and certificates are given to those who are promoted upon passing them satisfactorily.

THE second volume of the Hastings *Bible Dictionary*, published by Messrs. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, is now definitely announced for May 1. The first volume was published a year ago, and received the highest commendation from scholars. Special terms for subscription to the whole work, four volumes, are now offered. No minister should fail to purchase this Bible dictionary, and every Bible student and Sunday-school worker should own, or have ready access to it. The Hastings dictionary promises to be to the present generation

what Smith's *Bible Dictionary* has been to the generation just past. It takes the place of hundreds of separate volumes in a library, furnishing the information in concise and easily accessible form.

AFTER a long interval, another number in the "International Critical Commentary" series is now ready, the volume on *The Books of Samuel*, by Professor Henry P. Smith, of Amherst College. The other series of the same publishing house, the "International Theological Library," also receives an addition this spring in Professor George B. Stevens' *Theology of the New Testament*.

DR. H. A. REDPATH, collaborator with Dr. Edwin Hatch in the great *Concordance to the Septuagint*, has in preparation for separate publication a *Concordance of the Proper Names in the Septuagint*. And Rev. Charles Taylor, D.D., of Cambridge University, will have ready soon a book on the *Oxyrhynchus Logia and the Apocryphal Gospels*. Both works will come from the Clarendon Press, Oxford.

A VOLUME is soon to be published by John Murray, London, entitled *Authority and Archæology, Sacred and Profane*. It is a composite work, of which Mr. David G. Hogarth, Oxford University, and director of the British School at Athens, is the editor. The other contributors are also distinguished writers and investigators in archæology—Professors S. R. Driver, of Oxford; E. A. Gardner, of University College, London; F. Ll. Griffith, F. Haverfield, and A. C. Headlam.

UNUSUAL interest attaches to the article upon "The Mystery of Evil," contributed by Professor John Fiske to the *Atlantic Monthly* for April. He does not undertake to solve the mystery, but considers what the presence of evil in the world means for us. There is no more perplexing problem in thought, or more vital problem in life. Professor Fiske's treatment of the subject is helpful. Perhaps it is time for a reconsideration of the question of evil; certainly there is much new light upon it from the investigations of physical, historical, and sociological science. No one will be heard more attentively than the author of the *Destiny of Man* and *The Idea of God*. And in this connection notice may be made of the fact that Messrs. Houghton, Mifflin & Co. announce for immediate publication a new volume by Professor Fiske, entitled *Through Nature to God*, a companion volume to the two just named.

FEBRUARY 26 witnessed the close of the pastorate of Dr. Lyman Abbott over Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, after a ministry of eleven

years. The sermon of the last service was the reading of the retiring pastor's personal "Confession of Faith." This was published in the *Outlook* of March 11, and will repay careful consideration. In a period of rapid and thorough reconstruction of theological thought, or at least of the formulation of theological thought, few are able or disposed to state in a comprehensive way the whole of their personal belief. But from Dr. Abbott this comes as a natural, and very acceptable, conclusion to a life of strenuous effort to get at truth by modern knowledge and processes, and to express this truth in current English and with relation to the present sum of ideas. It is a valuable and significant contribution to the progress of Christianity. Dr. Abbott would be the last person to claim for this any peculiar inspiration or authority, but it is the ripe testimony of one who is unsurpassed in his generation for a devoted search after the truth, and an ardent desire to communicate truth to his fellow-men.

THE Hyde Park Baptist Sunday school of Chicago has recently issued its second annual report. The Sunday school is organized as follows:

As general officers it has a superintendent, an assistant superintendent, a secretary, and a treasurer, and directors of spiritual work, instruction, public exercises, benevolence, and the library. The school, which has an enrolment of 554, is divided into three divisions—elementary, intermediate, and adult, each of which has its principal. In the elementary division there are also a primary and a kindergarten superintendent and a chorister. The intermediate division, besides its principal, has an examiner. In general, it is intended to have large classes, and few, but exceptionally good, teachers.

This list of officers indicates that the principle employed in the organization is that of division of labor, but with the distribution of work there is likewise complete centralization, the assistant superintendent being chairman of all the committees, and in turn being directly responsible to the superintendent.

The most important fact contained in the report is doubtless that having to do with the department of instruction. From it one learns that after careful consideration it was decided (1) to adopt a definitely graded curriculum; (2) to regrade the classes of the elementary and intermediate divisions on the basis, not of public-school grade, but on that of biblical knowledge; (3) to give each class a grade number, Grades 1-5 being assigned to the elementary division and Grades

6-12 to the intermediate division ; (4) to promote pupils regularly in January of each year, or, when the progress of the individual justifies it, at the end of any quarter.

The following is the curriculum provisionally adopted, it being understood that for some time there must be considerable elasticity in the application of it, and that it is subject to modification by experience :

I. Grades 1-3. Stories and verses from the Bible, with free use of pictures for purposes of illustration.

II. Grades 4-6. Biblical biography, including the lives of Old Testament heroes, of Jesus, and of the apostles.

III. Grades 7, 8. Studies of separate books of the Bible, *e. g.*, the gospel of Mark and the epistle to the Philippians ; the first book of Samuel and one or more of the minor prophets.

VI. Grades 9-12 (corresponding to the high school). Biblical history, including both events and teaching : a year and a half on Old Testament history, a year and a half on the life of Christ, and a year on the apostolic age.

V. Adult division. Elective courses as follows : gospel of John, life and teachings of Jesus, Old Testament prophecy, English literature and the Bible, Christian missions.

In accordance with these decisions, a quarterly examination was held in December ; the classes of the elementary and intermediate divisions were carefully regraded, and grade numbers assigned at the beginning of the year, and the lessons for the new year were selected with a view to conforming to the curriculum as closely as practicable. To accomplish this, literature has been obtained from three different publishers, and for one class lessons are prepared each week by the director.

A somewhat unique element in the school is the order of exercises. The session lasts for about an hour and a quarter, and is divided into two nearly equal parts. The first part is devoted to the teaching of the lesson, and the work in the classes begins promptly at half-past nine, with no public exercises except a song. Each teacher begins his class with a prayer. The second part of the time is devoted to a carefully prepared religious service, consisting of reports, music, devotional exercises, and a five-minute address.